

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 2, 2008

Commissioner Hugh Weathers urges residents to plan for livestock prior to Tropical Storm Hanna
COLUMBIA, SC – With Tropical Storm Hanna gaining strength and potentially impacting the South Carolina coast, Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture, is urging residents to plan ahead for their animals' needs.

Weathers says people should not wait until an evacuation order is given to think about how they will deal with their livestock and other animals. Food, water, shelter and possibly relocating animals are a top concern for animal and livestock owners.

"I encourage everyone to plan ahead to ensure their animals, both large and small, do not become victims of a storm," Weathers said. "There are some valuable resources available for anyone who needs assistance for their emergency plans."

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture offers several tips for residents to think about while planning for a hurricane or any natural disaster.

- Ensure animal vaccinations and other health requirements up to date.
- If possible, make arrangements in advance for evacuation of horses.
- Make sure trailers for carrying animals are current on maintenance.
- Keep food and potable water on hand.
- Ensure livestock food stays dry. Wet food is no good for animals.
- Carry animal health and vaccination records with you during an evacuation.

For information on evacuating livestock, contact Mary Ellen Tobias, SC Department of Agriculture, 803-734-2210, or visit www.agriculture.sc.gov and click on **Livestock Emergencies**.

Other Contacts:

Animal Emergencies – Dr. Charlotte Krugler, SC LPH – 803-722-2260, ext. 286

Equine Emergency Planning and Management – Dr. Chris Mortensen, Clemson Extension Horse Specialist - 864-656-2596

Peter Kent – Clemson LPH News Editor – 864-656-4355

*** end ***

Media Contacts:

Becky Walton, SCDA, 803-734-2182, bwalton@scda.sc.gov

Stephen Hudson, 803-734-0648, sdhudson@scda.sc.gov